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No. 175

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIREs).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 13, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALBIO SIREs to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

God of power and mercy, blessed to be citizens of these United States of America and called by Your people to serve as their honored representatives in the 110th Congress, we pray that by Your mighty arm You protect this Nation, keep us from all harm and deliver us from all evil. Give us freedom of spirit, that we may live, work, and worship as the free children of God. May we enjoy good health of mind and body and so address the responsibilities set upon us, so our service may give You greater glory now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the

vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ACT COMMEMORATING THE LITE, OR LIFETIME INNOVATIONS OF THOMAS EDISON

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2627) to establish the Thomas Edison National Historic Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2627

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Act Commemorating the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Edison National Historic Site, located in West Orange, New Jersey, is a vital part of America's national system of parks which preserves Thomas Alva Edison's research and development laboratories, library, papers, and artifacts, as well as his home.

(2) The Site is a national historic treasure and contains the world's largest collection of materials related to Thomas Edison, encompassing an estimated 5,000,000 pages of documents, over 400,000 artifacts, approximately 35,000 sound recordings, and 10,000 books from Edison's personal library.

(3) Thomas Edison is one of America's greatest inventors, whose inexhaustible energy and genius produced 1,093 patents in his lifetime, more than any other American, including patents for the incandescent light bulb, the motion picture camera, and the phonograph.

(4) In 1928, Thomas Edison was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for the "development and application of inventions that have revolutionized civilization in the last century."

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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(5) In 1998, Congress again honored Thomas Edison by directing the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a commemorative coin celebrating the 125th anniversary of Edison's invention of the light bulb, celebrated in 2004.

(6) The Edison National Historic Site is one of America's most endangered historic places. The National Park Service, in its General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan, identified the need for numerous actions to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the Site and determined that sufficient government funds are not likely to be appropriated to complete these necessary actions in the foreseeable future.

(7) On November 6, 1997, the National Park Service signed an agreement with the Thomas Alva Edison Preservation Foundation (now the Edison Preservation Foundation), establishing a public-private partnership to jointly raise money to fund identified improvements at the Edison National Historic Site so as to leave the Site unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas Alva Edison and his innovations; and

(2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, scientific, and cultural center.

SEC. 3. THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Thomas Edison National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System (hereafter the "Historical Park").

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The Historical Park shall be comprised of—

(1) all property owned by the United States in the Edison National Historic Site as well as all property authorized to be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the Edison National Historic Site before the date of the enactment of this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled the "Edison National Historic Site", numbered 20003B, and dated April 1977; and

(2) all property authorized to be acquired for inclusion in the Historical Park by this Act or other law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) MAP.—The map of the Historical Park shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Historical Park in accordance with this Act and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Acts entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes," approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—

(1) REAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(2) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may acquire personal property associated with, and appropriate for, interpretation of the Historical Park.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with interested entities and individuals to provide for the preservation,

development, interpretation, and use of the Historical Park.

(d) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.—Public Law 87-628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and administration of the Edison National Historic Site, is repealed.

(e) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the "Edison National Historic Site" shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Thomas Edison National Historical Park".

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Edison is a towering figure in American history, a man whose genius continues to impact our world more than 75 years after his death.

Thanks to Mr. Edison's generosity, both his laboratory and his home in West Orange, New Jersey, are included within the National Park System and open to the public.

H.R. 2627 simply changes the name of this unit from the Edison National Historic Site to the Thomas Edison National Historical Park. The new name is more appropriate for a unit that includes multiple properties. Nearly identical legislation passed the House by a vote of 399-1 in February 2006, but, Mr. Speaker, it was never considered by the Senate.

The sponsor of H.R. 2627, the Representative from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), is to be commended for his outstanding work on this legislation, along with other cosponsors from the New Jersey delegation.

I urge all our colleagues to support H.R. 2627.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2627, which designates the Edison National Historic Site as the Thomas Edison National Historical Park. Supporters of the park anticipate this redesignation will improve the visitation revenue to the Edison historic site.

I would like also to recognize the critical contributions to this legislation made by Congressman SCOTT GARRETT. Last year, Mr. GARRETT successfully moved this bill through the Resources Committee in the House. I urge my colleagues to support this effort,

and hopefully it will go all the way through both Houses at this time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for such time as he may consume.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison Act, originally sponsored by my colleague Mr. PAYNE from New Jersey, with others of us from New Jersey joining him. The legislation before us would reclassify the Edison home and laboratory as a National Historical Park.

First dedicated as the Edison National Historic site by the National Park Service in 1962, the site is badly in need of restoration. Dedication of this site as a National Historical Park and authorizing funding for the preservation of the Edison home and laboratory will preserve a national treasure. As you have heard from my colleague, the collection there, as well as the buildings themselves, are of great historical national importance.

Thomas Edison was one of America's most prominent inventors. From starting one of the first industrial laboratories, something that is often forgotten, to inventing the first incandescent light bulb, the motion picture, the phonograph, et cetera, Edison played an integral role in the technological advances that helped spur America's industrial revolution.

Mr. Edison held over 1,000 patents in the United States and other countries, was named by Life magazine as the man of the millennium, and awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by the Congress in 1928 for his development and application of inventions that have revolutionized civilization. Thomas Edison certainly deserves to be remembered and his collection deserves to be preserved.

The 13.5 acre site will make an outstanding national historic park. It will draw people from all across the country to see the important collection there, as well as the site of the first really major scientific industrial laboratory in the United States.

Despite being designated a national historic site, it has fallen into disrepair, and in 1992 the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed this as one of the Nation's most endangered historic places. This redesignation is of great importance. Mr. Speaker, we are not only recognizing Thomas Edison's numerous contributions to American society, but we will, with this, be preserving the Edison National Historic Site as a leading educational, scientific, and cultural center.

I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing one of New Jersey's own—Thomas Alva Edison. H.R. 2627, the Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison, LITE, Act, is a testament to Edison, whose impact is still being felt today. Congress, in 1928, honored Edison with the Congressional Gold Medal for the "development and application of inventions that have

revolutionized civilization in the last century." In 1997, *Life* magazine named Edison "Man of the Millennium" in recognition of his inventions that have transformed modern society, including the incandescent light bulb, the motion picture camera, and the phonograph. The LITE Act will preserve the intellectual and physical accomplishments of Thomas Edison by commemorating his lifetime achievements; re-designating the Edison National Historic Site, located in West Orange, NJ, my congressional district, as a national historic park; and authorizing appropriations to support the site.

The Edison site is actually comprised of two separate sites—Edison's home of 45 years, known as Glenmont, and his laboratory complex. The Edison site houses over 5 million pages of documents, over 400,000 artifacts, approximately 35,000 sound recordings, and over 10,000 books from Edison's personal library. Like this priceless collection of documents and artifacts, Edison's laboratory complex and home are also historical treasures. With buildings dating back to 1887, the laboratory complex was one of America's first research and development facilities, and is where Edison earned over half of his 1,093 patents. Moreover, Mr. Edison's gravesite is located on the grounds of his beloved Glenmont, a 29-room home built in 1880 that contains original furnishings and other family items.

H.R. 2627 is critical to efforts to protect the Thomas Edison National Historic Site. The Edison site has enormous historical significance for America and for the world, and is badly in need of restoration. The need for major infrastructure improvements at the Edison site has been documented as early as 1972. Additionally, the site was listed, in 1992, by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the Nation's most "endangered historic places." The laboratory complex is currently closed to the public because of an extensive restoration effort. It is estimated that the first phase of the restoration effort will be completed next year and that the laboratory complex will re-open to the public some time between June and September of 2008. Renovations at Glenmont have been completed and the site is open to the public and fully functioning. Plans also exist for a second phase of the restoration project. Currently, National Park Service, NPS, staff are housed in historic buildings under less than ideal circumstances. The second phase will focus on getting NPS staff out of the historic buildings and into office space that better supports their critical mission of preserving Edison's historical legacy.

When the Edison site was fully operational, approximately 95,000 people visited the site each year. It is estimated that the number of visitors will nearly triple when the first phase of the restoration project is completed next year. H.R. 2627 would ensure this commitment by re-designating the Edison site as a "national historical park"—consistent with National Park Service guidelines—and authorizing appropriations for restoration work. These measures will preserve Thomas Edison's historical legacy, enhance the educational experience of visitors to the site, and hopefully, encourage more private funding for restoration projects.

Although private benefactors—most notably the Edison Preservation Foundation—have generously donated significant resources to restore the site, the Federal Government's

long-term commitment to the site is critical to its longevity and educational mission. This legislation recognizes Thomas Edison's numerous contributions to American society and preserves the Edison National Historic Site as a leading educational, scientific and cultural center.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is non-controversial. Similar legislation in the 109th Congress was supported by the National Park Service and approved by the House by a vote of 399–1. I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2627.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROMOTING THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 229) expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should seek a review of compliance by all nations with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna and other species, and should pursue strengthened conservation and management measures to facilitate the recovery of the Atlantic bluefin tuna, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 229

Whereas Atlantic bluefin tuna are a valuable commercial and recreational fishery of the United States and many other countries;

Whereas the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") was signed in 1966;

Whereas the Convention established the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") to coordinate international research and develop conservation and management recommendations on Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and the adjacent seas, including the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas in 1974, the Commission adopted its first conservation and management recommendation to ensure the sustainability of Atlantic bluefin tuna throughout the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, while allowing for the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes;

Whereas in 1981, for management purposes, the Commission adopted a working hypothesis of two Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks, with

one occurring west of 45 degree west longitude (hereinafter referred to as the "western Atlantic stock") and the other occurring east of 45 degree west longitude (hereinafter referred to as the "eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock");

Whereas since 1981, the Commission has adopted additional and more restrictive conservation and management recommendations for the western Atlantic stock, and these recommendations have been implemented by nations fishing west of 45 degree west longitude;

Whereas despite adoption and full implementation of a science-based rebuilding program for the western Atlantic stock by countries fishing west of 45 degree west longitude, catches and catch rates remain very low;

Whereas in contrast to the conservation and management measures implemented for the western Atlantic stock, total allowable catches for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock have been consistently set at levels significantly above scientific recommendations intended to maintain bluefin tuna populations at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch;

Whereas compliance with eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock quotas by parties to the Convention that harvest that stock has been very poor, most recently with harvests exceeding such total allowable catch levels by over 50 percent for each of the last 4 years;

Whereas poor management and compliance with recommendations for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock are of grave concern because the condition of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock could adversely affect recovery of the western Atlantic stock due to mixing between the two stocks;

Whereas recent scientific data shows considerable mixing of the two stocks and additional research on stock mixing will improve the understanding of the relationship between the two stocks and the fisheries for such stocks, which will assist in the management of these species throughout their ranges;

Whereas poor data reporting on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock quotas has frequently thwarted efforts by the Commission to assign quota overharvests to specific countries;

Whereas many Commission members fishing east of 45 degree west longitude do not comply with other Commission recommendations to control eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries and conserve this overfished resource and, more generally, lack of compliance with Commission recommendations is an ongoing problem;

Whereas the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (hereinafter referred to as "SCRS") noted in its 2006 report that the fishing mortality rate for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock may be more than three times the level that would permit the stock to stabilize at the maximum sustainable catch level, and continuing to fish at the level of recent years "is expected to drive the spawning biomass to a very low level" giving "rise to a high risk of fishery and stock collapse";

Whereas the SCRS has recommended that the annual harvest levels for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna be reduced from 32,000 metric tons to approximately 15,000 metric tons to halt decline of the resource and initiate recovery;

Whereas in 2006, the Commission adopted the "Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean" (hereinafter referred to as the "Recovery Plan") containing a wide range of management and monitoring and